



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20360-5000

AUG 21 1992

The Honorable Ronald K. Machtley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Machtley:

Thank you for bringing the remedial action on the Melville Marine Industry Property in Portsmouth, Rhode Island to my attention. I am advised that in the last year, key decisions have been made with regard to the site. In October 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency decided that the landfill site would not be included in the National Priorities List (NPL) site designated at the Naval Education and Training Center. This decision appeared to clarify the regulatory authorities at the site. Subsequently, Navy met with the state and the land owners. At that meeting, the state underscored the need for a CERCLA cleanup process; EPA staff is assessing the site for possible separate NPL listing. Navy, therefore, is continuing action consistent with that understanding. Our remedial investigation is progressing.

I have directed my staff to arrange for the appropriate Department of the Navy personnel to prepare a briefing on the history and status of the site for your, and Senator Chafee's, staff on this issue. LCDR Mike McGregor of the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs is the point of contact for arranging the specific time and location of the briefing. He may be reached at (703) 697-5946.

I have also directed that the owners of the property be promptly advised of the current status of the remedial action.

Cleanups of old contamination are often technically complex and subject to difficult issues raised by overlapping regulatory authority. This site has not been spared. Please be assured of the Navy commitment to move forward as efficiently as regulation and funding permits. As always, if I can be of further assistance, please let me know. I have sent a similar reply to Senator Chafee.

Sincerely,

Elsie L. Trunell

for JACQUELINE E. SCHAFER

copy to:
CNO (N4)